Bilateral Pacts to Curb Economic Offences

6030. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to have bilateral pacts with some of the foreign countries to curb economic offences and to book the offenders;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(c) to what extent the smuggling of narcotics etc. would be curbed by entering into agreements with foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) Government of India (Ministry of External Affairs) has entered into two types of bilateral arrangements with foreign countries to curb offences. First, extradiction treaties which facilitate the extradition of fugitive offenders who have committed offences in India and who take refuge or shelter in a foreign State. Second, mutual legal assistance agreements which facilitate the service of summons and documents, search and seizure, examination of witnesses, and some of the recent agreements also include provisions concerning the confiscation of proceedes of crime.

We have extradition treaties with Bhutan, Belgium, Canada; Nepal. The Netherlands; Uganda, UK and USA. At present efforts are being made to conclude extradition treaties with Hong Kong, Federal Republic of Germany, UAE, France and a new Extradition Treaty with USA.

We have entered into Mutual Legal Assistance Agreements with Turkey. Switzerland, UK and Canada. At present efforts are being made to conclude Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement with France. In addition to the standard features, the agreements with UK and Canada, which are the most recent ones, also provide for the Confiscation of Proceeds of Crime.

In addition, Government of India (Ministry of Home Affairs) has concluded agreements with some countries for combating terrorism, organised crimes etc.

Narcotic offences are criminal, offences. Government of India (Narcotics Control Bureau, Ministry of Finance) has entered into bilateral agreements regarding cooperation on counter narcotic measures with Mauritius, United States of America, Afghanistan, Russian Federation, Union of Myanmar, Zambia, UAE and Egypt. Besides, India has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Iran.

Negotiations are under progress to enter into counter narcotics agreements with certain other countries also.

(c) It is hoped that close international cooperation would help in putting curbs on drug trafficking.

Minimum balance in saving accounts

6031. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of public sector banks in the country have decided to raise the limit of minimum balance in savings accounts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether due to existing restrictions by public sector banks in maintaining minimum balance, the small investors/savers have been affected at large;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to adopt uniformity for all public sector banks in maintaining minimum balance in savings accounts and also to safeguard the interest of small investors; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details are not readily available.

(c) to (e) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that they have not issued any guidelines to banks regarding stipulation of minimum balance in savings bank account. However, Indian Banks' Association have advised its member banks that each bank should fix the minimum balance as considered appropriate. The minimum balance in saving bank account is prescribed by individual banks after taking into account cost of servicing such accounts, etc.

Demand to Amend Chit Funds Act

6032. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Demand to amend Chit Funds Act" which appeared in the 'Statesman' dated 10th April, 1995;

(b) if so, whether there are persistent demands to amend the Chit Funds Act;

(c) whether Government propose to bring amendments in the Act; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that demand for amendment to the Chit Funds Act had been made by fora of Chit Fund companies.

(c) and (d) Reserve Bank of India have suggested to Government certain amendments to the Chit Funds Act, 192 which are under consideration.

सकल घरेलू बचत

6033. **श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :**

श्री राम जेठमलानी :

क्या **वित्त** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में सकल घरेलू बचत का प्रतिशत सकल घरेलू उत्पाद की तुलना में गत कुछ वर्षों से निरन्तर कम होता जा रहा है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो वर्ष 1990–91 और 1994–95 के दौरान सकल घरेलू बचत कितने-कितने प्रतिशत थी ;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि इन वर्षों के दौरान सरकारी क्षेत्र में बचत का प्रतिशत गैर-सरकारी क्षेत्र में बचत के प्रतिशत की तुलना में बहुत कम रहा है ;

(घ) यदि हां तो वर्ष 1990–91 तथा 1994–95 के दौरान क्रमश: गैर-सरकारी क्षेत्र और सरकारी क्षेत्र में कुल घरेलू बचत का प्रतिशत कितना कितना था ;

(ङ) क्या सरकार ने उन कारणों का पता लगाया है, जिसकी वजह से गैर-सरकारी क्षेत्र और सरकारी क्षेत्र में बचतों के प्रतिशत में अन्तर रहा है ; और

(च) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?